



## NEWS RELEASE

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**District:** District 4  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Caltrans Completes Old Bay Bridge East Cantilever Demolition**

OAKLAND – Caltrans on Thursday completed the demolition of the monumental 80-year-old Cantilever section of the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Contractors dismantled the 1936 Cantilever East Span piece-by-piece, working in near reverse order of the way it was erected some 80 years ago. Early in the process, two sections of the main span cantilevered outward 700 feet from their support piers and hundreds of feet above the bay.

“This careful balancing act was performed hundreds of feet above the Bay and had to deal with the elements and heavy lifts of lead-painted steel, all while adhering to strict environmental safeguards,” said Chief Bridge Engineer for the project, Dr. Brian Maroney.

Challenged with well-used Depression-era steel, Caltrans married World War I steel technology with today's modern and sophisticated technology using advanced computer analyses and construction equipment tailor-made for this challenging historic demolition.

“California Engineering Contractors Inc./Silverado Contractors, Inc., and the

engineers truly



## NEWS RELEASE

deserve credit for a great job,” Maroney said. “This steel was new 80 years ago and technology was basically paper, pencils slide rules and calculations. The steel is now tired fatigued, cracked and rusted. This incredibly challenging work was completed on time, under budget and without loss of life, and that demands our respect.”

The original East Span cantilever truss was a half mile span made up of steel elements pieced together in a structural system called trusses servicing the Bay area for eight remarkable decades. Crews cut the cantilever at its center and dismantled both sides. The 576-foot long suspended span of the cantilever was then removed. Prior to cutting through the cantilever and separating its two halves, preparations were made to reduce structural tension and pull the suspended span on each end toward the rest of the Bridge.

The cantilever demolition began on November 5, 2013 and was completed June 11, 2015. The anticipated final cost for the demolition of the cantilever is \$63.7 million.

This completes the first phase of the demolition process. Now crews will proceed to Phase Two of the demolition; dismantling the truss spans that stretch east of the cantilever to the Oakland shore.

**1<sup>st</sup> photo - The suspended span of the historic Old Bay Bridge is cut at its center.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> photo - Demolition of the east cantilever of the historic Old Bay Bridge is complete.**

Please visit [www.baybridgeinfo.org](http://www.baybridgeinfo.org) for more details and videos about the Old Bay Bridge demolition.



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